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STATEMENT OF OFFICER GRZEGORZ CLAPA

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CONDUCTED BY INVESTIGATOR BRIAN KILLEN

11

on 20 July 2017 at 1600 hours

12

at the offices of the

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Civilian Office of Police Accountability

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LOG # 1085949

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Attachment # 92

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1 INVESTIGATOR KILLEN: This is the audio-recorded
2 interview of Officer Grzegorz Clapa regarding Log No.
3 1085949/U#17-016. Today is the 20th of July 2017, and the
4 time is approximately 1600 hours. This statement is
5 being taken at the offices of the Civilian Office of
6 Police Accountability at 1615 West Chicago Avenue. My
7 name is Investigator Killen, that's spelled K-i-l-l-e-n.
8 My star number is 129. Also presented is COPA
9 Investigator Miranda O'Boyle. If you would --

10 INVESTIGATOR O'BOYLE: Miranda O'Boyle, M-i-r-a-n-d-
11 a O'Boyle, O'-B-o-y-l-e.

12 INVESTIGATOR KILLEN: And then there's COPA
13 Investigator Dane Rohrer.

14 INVESTIGATOR ROHRER: It's Dane, D-a-n-e Rohrer, R-
15 o-h-r-e-r.

16 INVESTIGATOR KILLEN: And Officer Clapa is
17 represented by attorney, Colleen Daley. Colleen, if you
18 would.

19 COLLEEN DALY: C-o-l-l-e-e-n, last name D-a-l-y.

20 EXAMINATION

21 BY INVESTIGATOR KILLEN:

22 Q And then officer, if you would say and spell
23 your first and last names for me.

24 A My first Grzegorz Clapa, also go by Greg Clapa,

1 Greg C-l-a-p-a, officer of 25th District, Chicago Police
2 Department, Star No. 16593.

3 Q All right. What's your employee number?

4 A [REDACTED]

5 Q All right, and your date of appointment with
6 the Department?

7 A 27 May 2014.

8 Q All right. And your date of birth?

9 A [REDACTED].

10 Q All right. And you're assigned to 25, right?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q How long have you been assigned to 25?

13 A Over a year.

14 Q All right. And before that, where were you?

15 A 15th District.

16 Q All right. You are aware that there's no
17 allegations of misconduct made against you?

18 A Yes, I do.

19 Q All right. You're also aware that this
20 statement has the standing of an official Department
21 report, and that any intentional falsification of any
22 answer to any question would be in direct violation of
23 the rules and regulations?

24 A Yes, I'm aware.

1 Q And then given that, I would like to remind you
2 that a failure to provide a complete and accurate account
3 of this incident could result in a finding of Rule 14
4 with disciplinary action up to and including separation
5 from the Chicago Police Department. Do you understand
6 that?

7 A Yes, I do.

8 Q All right. What was your duty status and
9 assignment on 16 July 2017 at approximately 0308 hours?

10 A I not making this statement voluntarily, but
11 under duress. And I'm only making this statement at this
12 time because I know that I will lose my job if I refuse.

13 Q So, July 16, 2017 about 3 o'clock in the
14 morning, on-duty or off?

15 A On-duty.

16 Q All right. What time did you start work that
17 night?

18 A Nine o'clock p.m.

19 Q 2100 hours, and that would be on the 15th,
20 right?

21 A Yes.

22 Q All right. Is that your normal -- your normal
23 --

24 A Yes.

1 Q -- hours?

2 A I always work 2100 hours, six o'clock in the
3 morning.

4 Q Okay. And that's the normal time for you?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Were you in uniform or plain clothes?

7 A Uniform.

8 Q All right. And you're full uniform, you got --

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q -- vest, right?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Are you assigned a body camera?

13 A We don't have body cameras in 25.

14 Q Okay. On your vest is your star?

15 A Yes, my star on the vest. I'm in full uniform.
16 I had my microphone from the vehicle, and my camera was
17 working.

18 Q Okay. Your in-car camera you mean?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. Your badge, is it your badge you pin it
21 on it, or you got that stitched on your vest?

22 A Stitched.

23 Q All right. Same with your name?

24 A Yes.

1 Q What Beat were you assigned that night?

2 A 2531 Robert.

3 Q All right. That your normal Beat?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q All right. And then partner?

6 A I was working with a PPO that night. That was
7 her first day in 25th District.

8 Q Well, what's her name?

9 A Officer -- I don't remember her -- I don't
10 recall her name right now. She's -- she's new.

11 Q Okay. That was her first night in 25?

12 A First night in 25.

13 Q Okay. She was also full uniform?

14 A First name was Adriana (phonetic). She was in
15 full uniform.

16 Q Okay. And then you guys were assigned a
17 vehicle, right?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q What kind of vehicle?

20 A Ford Explorer.

21 Q All right. Marked or unmarked?

22 A Marked.

23 Q All right. Do you know the outside number on
24 it?

1 A I don't remember.

2 Q Okay. So on this night you were -- you were a
3 witness to an officer-involved shooting, correct?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q All right. And just start from the beginning,
6 and just explain to me the events leading up to the
7 shooting.

8 A Well, we just put ourselves on lunch. So we're
9 marked (inaudible 0:03:58.2). It shows we're going to
10 the district for lunch, when I heard the 2523 Robert,
11 which is Officer Rodriguez (phonetic) and McMillan
12 (phonetic) calling for help, calling for more cars. So I
13 right away responded, make sure dispatch put me on it. I
14 turned around, went up Diversey and started heading
15 toward the direction where they were looking for to get
16 more cars.

17 Q All right. So you and your partner were going
18 into the district for lunch?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Into the station?

21 A Yes.

22 Q All right. Where were you coming from?

23 A From Diversey, from 7-Eleven. We just grabbed
24 something to eat going to lunch.

1 Q Okay. Then you hear -- you hear --

2 A It's on the radio.

3 Q -- on the radio.

4 A Yes, I hear on the radio, "Send us more cars,
5 more cars." And then I hear Officer McMillan saying,
6 "Step it up. Step it up." So, I knew that something --
7 something bad is going on 'cause I know those officers,
8 and they good officers. I went on Diversey. I drove
9 westbound on Diversey, then I turned into Mulligan, and I
10 realized they parked in the alley on my right side.

11 I hit the brakes. I jumped out of the car, and ran
12 over there. Now, when I'm over there, I see Officer
13 Rodriguez. Both officers have their guns out. Officer
14 Rodriguez is screaming "Don't do it. Don't do it" to the
15 passenger. I placed myself closer to Officer McMillan,
16 and I realized there is four heads in the car, four
17 bodies in the car.

18 Next thing -- next thing I remember is I heard a
19 heavy object hitting the ground. I didn't know what that
20 is at the time. Then I see the subject, the offender,
21 jumping out of the car, and very aggressively trying to
22 reach for something. Then I hear shots fired. I didn't
23 see Officer Rodriguez firing his weapon, but I did see
24 Officer Ronan (phonetic) firing his weapon.

1 Immediately I went on the radio screaming, "Shots
2 fired, shots fired." Then we moved back toward the car.
3 I opened the door, the passenger door on the passenger
4 side, back door of the vehicle. And me and Officer
5 Belusa (phonetic) removed one subject from the back.
6 Then I moved forward, and opened the door, the passenger
7 up front on the passenger's side.

8 We removed the female from there. And then
9 immediately I wanted to see what got dropped on the
10 ground. What was the noise I heard, that thud? So I ran
11 around the car, and I was looking for -- for the gun
12 because they were yelling, "Gun, gun, don't touch it."
13 And I observed a Glock 22mm on the ground next to the
14 driver's door, on the ground.

15 Q Okay. How close to the car was it?

16 A I would say it was like a feet away, maybe not
17 even.

18 Q A foot away.

19 A Half a -- half a foot away from the -- from the
20 car.

21 Q And when you came around the car, is that the
22 first time you saw the gun?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay. And when you came around the car, did

1 you come around like the front end or the back end of it?

2 A The front of the car.

3 Q Okay. So, it was on the ground on the pavement

4 --

5 A Yes.

6 Q -- in the alley, about foot from the driver's
7 door?

8 A Half a foot from the driver's door.

9 Q Okay. Let's go back. So did you -- I know you
10 said you came off Diversey, and then you come up
11 Mulligan. So you're going north on Mulligan?

12 A Yes.

13 Q All right. And you parked -- you leave the car
14 on Mulligan? That's where you park?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. And the reason I'm asking is because I
17 know you said you have an in-car camera, but then you're
18 still on Mulligan for the incident -- your car's on
19 Mulligan.

20 A My car's on Mulligan. There's a pretty good
21 distance from the car because I -- the minute I saw them,
22 I observed their light in the alley, which is somewhere
23 here, I parked my car somewhere here. So I just hit the
24 brakes. I remember the screeching on the pavement. I

1 jump out of the car, and I ran over there.

2 Q Okay. So, when you leaving 7-Eleven and you
3 hear the -- McMillan and Rodriguez call for --

4 A When I left 7-Eleven I was halfway to the
5 district and told the dispatch, lunch in 25. She put me
6 on lunch. I could see in PDT that my Beat has lunch at
7 25. I'm driving in the middle of the way to the
8 district, and I hear the call.

9 Q Now, when you hear that call, it's over the
10 radio, right?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And then you can hear -- you know it's McMillan
13 and Rodriguez, right?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And do they say anything about a gun in a car,
16 or anything like that over the radio?

17 A I don't recall that.

18 Q Okay. But them calling an assist, and like you
19 said, they're good -- they're good officers. You know
20 them.

21 A I worked for a little bit with Officer
22 Rodriguez before and I do overtime just VRI with Officer
23 McMillan. So, I know both the officers, and I know
24 they're very calm on the job. They're never rushing into

1 anything. So, when I heard them screaming for help, I
2 knew something's going on.

3 Q Okay. So then you put yourself down as going
4 that way.

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. And so then the first time you become
7 aware that there's a gun involved in this is when?

8 A When I ran after I heard, I don't know who said
9 that, but "gun, gun, gun." And then Officer Rodriguez
10 was saying, "Don't touch it. Don't touch it." So, I
11 knew there's a gun in the car. I did not know who has
12 the gun.

13 Q Okay. So when you get there, so that -- I -- I
14 know -- so the four people were inside the vehicle,
15 right?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And the vehicle's inside the alley?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Which -- which direction is it facing?

20 A Northbound.

21 Q So it's north in the alley?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And then Rodriguez and McMillan, they have a
24 vehicle, right?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And where's their vehicle in the alley?

3 A Behind the offender's vehicle. It's at an
4 angle because when they pulled them over he already
5 turned into the alley, facing northbound. But they were
6 halfway facing north -- they were actually facing like
7 northeast.

8 Q Okay. And 'cause it's a t-section -- a t-
9 section in the alley right. So there's an east/west
10 alley and then a north/south.

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. So then the car that the civilians were
13 in, do you remember what kind of car that was?

14 A Don't recall.

15 Q All right, color?

16 A No.

17 Q Okay. And I know you said you could see -- you
18 saw four head in there. So, you can see into the car?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Were any of the windows tinted or anything like
21 that?

22 A No.

23 Q Okay, so you knew there were four bodies --

24 A Yes.

1 Q -- four people in that vehicle.

2 A And then when you show up, are you -- is it --
3 is it just Rodriguez and McMillan, and then you in the
4 alley at that time, and the officer you were working
5 with?

6 A It was the officer I was working it. It was --
7 I remember Officer Rodriguez. I remember Officer
8 McMillan.

9 Q Okay. So Rodriguez was on the driver's side of
10 the car?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And McMillan on the other side of the car?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Both with guns drawn, you said?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. And is that when you hear Rodriguez
17 saying --

18 A "Don't touch it."

19 Q Okay.

20 A That's what he said.

21 Q Does he make you aware that there's a gun then
22 at that point?

23 A I heard somebody scream "gun, gun."

24 Q Okay. And then you position yourself on the

1 passenger's side of the civilian car?

2 A Yes, closer to Officer McMillan.

3 Q Okay. And what happens? So, what do you do
4 then? What happens at that point?

5 A So then we're trying to control the scene. I
6 don't know who has the gun yet, but I know Mikey, which
7 is Officer Rodriguez, is yelling inside the car toward
8 the back passengers, "Don't touch it. Don't touch it."
9 Next thing I know, I heard that noise that something got
10 dropped on the pavement, a heavy object. And the next
11 thing I remember is the offender, the passenger from the
12 back seat, jump out of the car and bend over. He reached
13 for something. And then --

14 Q Are you -- are you still on the opposite side
15 of the car?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. So, when you see Rodriguez on the
18 driver's side of the car how -- how -- what's the
19 distance between him and the car? Your best guess.

20 A I'm guessing maybe two feet, maybe three feet,
21 really close.

22 Q Okay. And I know I already asked you, none of
23 the windows are tinted, right? Are the windows up or
24 down?

1 A I don't recall.

2 Q Okay. And then between Rodriguez -- if
3 Rodriguez had to, would he have able to gain cover?

4 A I'm sorry?

5 Q Would he -- would -- was there anything between
6 Rodriguez and the civilian's vehicle?

7 A No.

8 Q And so he's -- he's effectively out in the
9 open?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. And what about McMillan? Did have any
12 way to gain cover if he had to? If he had to retreat?

13 A No.

14 Q Okay. And then -- before -- were you hearing
15 gunshots before you heard the -- the sound of the gun
16 hitting the pavement?

17 A No.

18 Q Okay. Did you see the gun leave the car?

19 A I did not. I just heard something dropping on
20 the pavement.

21 Q Okay. And when you heard that, what did you
22 think?

23 A It has to be the gun they mentioned.

24 Q Okay. Did it sound like --

1 A It was a heavy metal object, that's how I would
2 describe it.

3 Q So -- so when you heard it then you thought,
4 there's the gun?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. And then, you see -- and -- then you're
7 talking about the passenger. The guy that got out of the
8 car, and appeared to be reaching for something, where in
9 the car was he seated?

10 A He was behind the driver on the backseat.

11 Q Okay. And that's where he exits from?

12 A Yes.

13 Q So when he exits -- was he ordered to exit?

14 A I don't remember.

15 Q Okay. Is he the only one to exit?

16 A Yes.

17 Q All right, so when he exits, what do you do?

18 A When he exists, he make a movement toward the
19 pavement like he was trying reached something. He was
20 trying to grab something.

21 Q And when you see -- when you see that, what
22 does that make you this?

23 A I was still controlling -- my job was to
24 control. Because I positioned myself on the right side

1 of the vehicle by Officer McMillan, our job to control
2 that side of the vehicle. And I believe that the
3 officers that responded, they were on the opposite side
4 of the vehicle, where the offender was. And their job
5 was to handle that side.

6 Q Right. When you -- but -- when you see the guy
7 get out of the car, and then he looks like he's reaching
8 for something on the ground, what do you think he's
9 reaching for?

10 A The weapon.

11 Q Okay. So you saw that, and that's what it
12 makes you think at that moment?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. And then what happens?

15 A And then Officer Ronan -- Sergeant Ronan yell,
16 "don't, don't, don't" and he fired his gun. So we
17 immediately walked backwards, went backwards, and grabbed
18 my mic, and I started yelling "shots fired, shots fired."

19 Q And do you know at what point Sergeant Ronan
20 showed up on the scene?

21 A I don't remember that.

22 Q Okay. And Sergeant Ronan, being a sergeant, is
23 he uniformed?

24 A Yes.

1 Q All right. And did you recognize him as
2 Sergeant Ronan? You know who he is?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Full uniform, white shirt.

6 Q All right. He works 99 alone?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. So the first time that you see Ronan is
9 when this all kind of happens?

10 A When he fired.

11 Q Okay. About how many times did he fire?

12 A I don't remember.

13 Q All right.

14 A It was multiple times.

15 Q Where was he -- where was he positioned when he
16 fired?

17 A He was behind the offender's vehicle.

18 Q Okay. Like on that --

19 A He was still behind the vehicle.

20 Q Like the trunk on the driver's side you mean?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Okay. So did -- would he have a clear line of
23 sight --

24 A Yes.

1 Q Okay. Do you know where Rodriguez was at that
2 time, too?

3 A Rodriguez was over to the left, but I did not
4 see him. I could just hear him.

5 Q How so?

6 A 'Cause there was a squad car. It was -- I was
7 -- I was on the farthest right, and Rodriguez was on the
8 farthest left of the vehicle.

9 Q Okay.

10 A And when I -- when I yelled, "shots fired,
11 shots fired", I was on the back of the vehicle towards
12 the far right. So, I did not see the left side of the
13 vehicle at all at this time.

14 Q You could -- you could hear him, though?

15 A I can hear him.

16 Q What was he saying?

17 A He was -- he was yelling "gun, gun." That's
18 all I remember.

19 Q Okay. Did you ever see Officer Rodriguez fire
20 his gun?

21 A No.

22 Q All right. But you saw Ronan?

23 A Yes.

24 Q All right. Did you see a muzzle flash?

1 A No.

2 Q The kick back of the --

3 A No, Ronan was running toward the vehicle and
4 shooting.

5 Q Okay.

6 A And I was like behind him toward his right.

7 Q Okay. And then what happens after Ronan fires?

8 A So, Ronan fires and then he says, "I'm going
9 in." So I assumed that seeing he's here and he's with
10 this pistol, with this weapon, 'cause we did not -- at
11 this time we still don't know how many weapons are in the
12 car, and who's who. I ran toward the car, as I hear him,
13 "I'm moving in." He's gonna move in and secure the area,
14 secure the offender (inaudible 0:16:16.7).

15 I went to the back passenger door. I opened the
16 door, and Officer Belusa assisted me to remove the
17 passenger. And then I moved myself up front. I remember
18 the door was closed, 'cause I was yelling, "Open the
19 door. Open the door." It was a female in the front
20 passenger's seat. I opened the door. Officer McMillan
21 assisted me to remove the female.

22 And then immediately I wanted to focus on the object
23 that got dropped on the ground because they were yelling,
24 "Gun. Gun. Don't touch it." So, I run in front of the

1 car. I was looking for this gun, and I saw it was like a
2 half a foot away from the driver's door. I mean, the
3 middle of the door.

4 Q Do you mean between --

5 A An opening, you have an opening when you want
6 to sit inside the car, you have an opening. The door was
7 open, and in the middle of that opening, on the ground a
8 half a foot away, there is -- there is a weapon.

9 Q All right. Where was the -- where was the
10 driver at that point?

11 A He was in custody.

12 Q And then -- then the other -- the backseat
13 passenger?

14 A They were all removed from the car.

15 Q Okay. Did you ever -- did you ever handle that
16 firearm, that pistol?

17 A No. I stood by it, and I made sure nobody will
18 touch it --

19 Q Okay.

20 A -- before ET can look at it.

21 Q How did you know it was a Glock?

22 A I looked at it. Sergeant Ronan asked me,
23 "Greg, what is the weapon?" I had my flashlight. I
24 looked at it, and I said, "Oh, it's a Glock 22mm and it's

1 engraved on the guard is G22.

2 Q But you never touched it or nothing like that?

3 A Never.

4 Q As far as you --

5 A Nobody touched as far I know.

6 Q -- know, nobody touched it. So where it was
7 recovered -- where the ETs got it, that's where it laid.
8 Okay.

9 INVESTIGATOR KILLEN: Anything?

10 INVESTIGATOR O'BOYLE: I just have a few questions.

11 BY INVESTIGATOR O'BOYLE:

12 Q Did you ever hear the back passenger that was
13 believed to have the gun say anything?

14 A Well, they were trying to tell the offender,
15 "Stop what you're doing. What are you doing?" They were
16 trying to tell him to stop doing what he's doing.

17 Q Was he saying anything back to them --

18 A Uh-uh. No --

19 Q -- that you recall?

20 A -- I don't recall.

21 Q Okay. And after he was arrested did -- I'm
22 talking again about the back -- the back driver
23 passenger, did you hear him say anything or act erratic?

24 A The last thing I remember was somebody -- one

1 of the officers, I don't remember which one, ask him for
2 his name. And he said, "Fuck off is my name."

3 INVESTIGATOR O'BOYLE: That was all I had.

4 INVESTIGATOR KILLEN: All right.

5 BY INVESTIGATOR KILLEN:

6 Q Officer Clapa, is there anything you'd like to
7 add or anything that we may have missed, or didn't bring
8 up that you think is relevant?

9 A No, sir.

10 Q All right. Everything you stated is a true and
11 accurate account of what occurred?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 INVESTIGATOR KILLEN: All right, this will conclude
14 the audio-recorded interview of Officer Clapa regarding
15 Log No. 1085949/U#17-16. Today's the 20th of July 2017.
16 The time is approximately 1619 hours.

17 (STATEMENT ENDED)

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)

2) SS

3 COUNTY OF C O O K)

4
5 I, VICTORIA E. ROCK, a Notary Public, Certified
6 Shorthand Reporter and President of Victoria Legal +
7 Corporate Services, do hereby certify that I caused
8 this audio recording to be transcribed.

9 I further certify that the foregoing is a true
10 and correct transcription to the best of my ability;
11 and further, that I am not counsel for nor in any
12 way interested in the outcome thereof.

13
14 IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
15 hand this 14th day of August, 2017.

16
17 
18
19 **VICTORIA E. ROCK**

20 Notary Public, Cook County, IL

21 C.S.R. License No. 084-001929